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with which they are concerned, including the firkas selected for Rural Welfare Scheme. They are not, therefore, prohibited from taking up any ameliorative work relating to the Harijans in the firkas selected for Rural Welfare Scheme.''

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—"In view of the fact that none of the departments was doing the work of constructing wells, especially for Harijans, will the Government issue instructions that this work should be accelerated by both the departments?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"The question of accelerating the works will be attended to."

SRI S. NARAYANAPPA :—"May I know the functions of the District Welfare Officers?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"Their functions are to carry out the work of the Harijan Welfare department."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"In view of the large amount of work entrusted to the District Welfare Officers, will the Government consider the question of providing jeeps to all District Welfare Officers, at least at the rate of one jeep for each district?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—"At the present moment, it is very difficult to supply jeeps."

* 237 Q.—SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—"In view of the importance of this question, I request that it may be taken up tomorrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—"All right."

Grants to district boards.

* 238 Q.—SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether representations were made to the Government about the deficit budgets of several district boards in the State and to make good the deficit budgets by allotment of increased grants for smooth running of administration and if so, what action the Government has taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—"Some district boards applied for grant to cover deficit in their accounts. The district boards have been asked to economise their expenditure to the extent possible, as there was abnormal increase of expenditure since 1951-52. Grants have been sanctioned to certain district boards having heavy deficits during the current year (1952-53) as specified below:—

		RS.
(1) Anantapur District Board	...	1,25,000
(2) West Godavari District Board	...	2,10,000
(3) Chittoor District Board	...	2,90,000
(4) Nellore District Board	...	1,75,000

			RS.
(5) North Arcot District Board	...	...	1,45,000
(6) South Kanara District Board	...	...	95,684
(7) The Nilgiris District Board	...	...	23,000
(8) Chingleput District Board	...	...	90,000

SRI K. V. VEMA REDDI :—" Sir, the heavy deficit in the finances of the District Boards is due to the starting of several schools and maternity centres and dispensaries; in view of these considerations, will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration consider the proposal of improving the finances of the Boards by implementing the recommendations of the All-India Local Boards Finance Commission, and allowing them share up to a certain percentage the taxes collected by the States? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The whole question is now under consideration, and the report on the reorganization of the district boards also is under consideration."

SRI T. N. VENKATASUBBA REDDI :—" May I tell the Hon. Minister that legitimate grants like payment for dearness allowance, etc., which are payable to the District Boards have not been paid in time by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government are making all possible efforts to pay off all eligible grants."

9-30 a.m. SRI P. S. RANGASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Sir, is it a fact that some of the district boards have approached the Government either for loans or grants with proposals for famine relief works of an important and urgent nature and if so, what was the action taken by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government examine them very closely."

DR. T. S. SOUNDARAM RAMACHANDRAN :—" Sir, the Madura District Board also is working at a deficit and so they could not spend on the extension of educational and maternity services. Have they made any representation to the Government? If so, may I know whether any help is going to be given to them at least? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Some more district boards also have represented and their representations are all under the consideration of the Government."

SRI Y. MANJAYA SHETTY :—" Sir, on account of the deficit budget and also on account of the inordinate delay caused in making available necessary funds to district boards by the Government, the District Board of South Kanara as well as some other district boards have not been paying regularly the salaries of their employees, especially of elementary school teachers. In view of this will the Government take necessary steps for regular payment of salaries in future? "

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THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The district boards, under pressure, are taking up many works, or are starting too many institutions and the Government are advising them to economise expenditure as far as possible."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Sir, in view of the deficit budgets of various district boards, will the Government advise the district boards not to open new high schools or other institutions? They may hand them over to Government or private agencies—for instance, the whole education work can be handed over to private agencies and the expenditure of district boards minimized? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The Government have already asked the District Boards not to start new institutions."

SRI P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Sir, in view of the financial stringency of all the district boards, will the Government consider the question of paying the extra expenditure incurred by district boards on payment of dearness allowance to the staff as a matter of course? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Grants towards dearness allowance are being paid to the extent to which district boards are in deficit."

Questions 239 and 240—

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions 239 and 240 are postponed to tomorrow."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Financial assistance to Burma evacuees.

25 Q.—SRI KUNHI MUHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given on 26th November 1952 to question No. 178—

(*a*) in how many cases the financial assistance given during the last war to help evacuees from Burma, Malaya, etc., and to the dependants in India of Indians stranded overseas, in Malabar district, has been ordered to be recovered ;

(*b*) in how many cases such amounts have been ordered to be written off ;

(*c*) the total amount recovered up to 31st December 1952 from each taluk of Malabar district ; and

(*d*) the expenditure incurred by the State Government for such recovery ?

A.—(*a*) Recoverable advances amounting to Rs. 1,24,44,890 were sanctioned in 18,966 cases.

(*b*) 107.